

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, JULY 13, 2021
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Ashley Brady presided. Council members Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, Mayor Pro-tem Emerson, Joseph Frazier, Ronald Atkinson and Tassie Lewis were present. Staff present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, Vickie Nichols and Chief Bobby Crawford. City Attorney James Brogdon telephoned in. Visitors present were Don Strickland and Marilyn Woodberry. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 8, 2021, Public Hearing Minutes held on June 30, 2021, and Special City Council Meeting held on June 30, 2021. The motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried unanimously.

JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Thomas Johnson with the Public Works Department was named the June Employee of the Month. Mayor Brady expressed his thanks to Mr. Johnson for his dedication and hard work with the Public Works Department.

PDRTA

Don Strickland, Executive Director of PDRTA provided a report on the current public transportation initiatives in Marion County. Strickland reported that through a partnership with MCCC, CHFE Program and the BuildHealth Network that demand response service started on May 3rd, 2021 with much growth with every passing week. Strickland shared how additional services and drivers will be needed in Marion County to effectively cover the rural areas of the

county. Strickland pointed out that the majority of trips in the rural area were coming to Marion where citizens have access to healthcare, shopping and essential services. These passengers are coming from Sellers, Britton's Neck, Gresham, Centenary, Rains, Marion, Mullins and Nichols. Strickland shared that the Myrtle Beach service was doing well again and picking back up as tourism increased in Horry County. He thanked the Marion County HealthCare Foundation and the municipalities for their support of this valuable service allowing commuters to reach work each day. He shared that the City of Mullins had appropriated \$10,000 in local support to help support services for the 2021-2022 budget year and asked Marion City Council for their consideration to do the same. Strickland also shared how he intended on opening the Marion County PDRTA office again in the near future to help support the local growth in public transportation. He shared that new employees would be hired from Marion County. He thanked Mayor Brady and City Council for their time and consideration.

BIDS ON STORMWATER REPAIRS

City Administrator Mr. Ammons gave an update on the bids for the Bobby Gerald Parkway and Withlacoochee Park. He stated that the City received four bids on July 8, 2021: (1) ARC Incorporated, Murrells Inlet, (2) Herrington Construction, Mullins, (3) L - J Inc, Cayce and (4) Moody Construction., Lake View. The low bidder was Herrington Construction. A motion was made by Ralph Atkinson and seconded by Tassie Lewis to accept the low bid from Herrington Construction; motion carried unanimously.

2nd Reading on Ordinance 21-06 **ORDINANCE TO SET RATES FOR SANITATION SERVICES**. Mayor stated that a public hearing was held for the public to voice their concerns.

No Citizens were present. A motion was made to approve the 2nd reading of ordinance 21-06; by Emerson Hunt and seconded by Tassie Lewis; motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Ammons updated Council on the progress of the Stormwater Project on Bobby L Davis Blvd. He stated that all work has been completed except for some small fine tuning. He also updated Council on the Compost Site. With the new DHEC regulation that came into effect in July. Nothing can be left on site. Everything has to be ground up before going to site. Mr. Ammons said he heard from the family of the Jenkins Nursing Home and they are getting a price to remove the asbestos. This will be a costly expense. There may be some grant opportunities for the project. Some research would have to be done and we could get back with them with the information.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to go into executive session to discuss personnel matter, City Clerk. Returning from executive session, Mayor Ashley Brady stated that no action was taken. A motion was made to return to regular session.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady commended the City workers on their hard work and dedication in keeping the City clean and safe. Mayor updated council that the grapple truck and both bush hogs need parts. At this time, it's hard to find those parts but the City workers are working as hard as they can with the other equipment to meet the citizens needs. Mayor Brady stated he was proud to announce that Marion Recreation 15-U Softball Team was playing for the State Championship in Georgetown. The games began on July 10th. Mayor Brady said the concert that was held by HMRA was greatly supported and had a great crowd. Tru Soul out of Myrtle Beach was the guest band and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves. The

next concert will be on July 23rd and the solo artist will be Spenser Huck of Johnsonville SC, along with a couple of food trucks.

Councilman Baker asked if the tree at Circle-K where the Christmas Lights usually hangs could be removed because the tree is dead and also a dead tree on N. Main St. Mr. Ammons said he would look into it and get back with council.

Councilmember's Joseph Frazier and Ralph Atkinson had no update.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson asked for an update on the pink trash can. Mr. Ammons stated that someone is scheduled to pick them up on Saturday (July 17, 2021.)

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked Mr. Don Strickland on the update information on PRTA new bus route.

Councilman Emerson Hunt has concerns about large crowd gathering at East Brook Apartments. Residents are complaining about people that doesn't live in the apartments. He wanted to know if officers ride through to show their presence to help with the non-residents gathering. Mayor Brady said he had a meeting with the Chief Crawford and had addressed that concern. Chief Crawford said he would have the police in the area.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Michael Baker: the motion carried.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Interim City Clerk Vickie J Nichols

